

Message Text

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

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COME-00 ERDA-07 FEA-01 EUR-12 /132 W

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SUBJ: ARGENTINE PRESIDENT VISITS PERU

1. ON MARCH 3, PRESIDENT JORGE VIDELA OF ARGENTINA ARRIVED IN LIMA TO BEGIN A HIGHLY PUBLICIZED THREE-DAY VISIT. ACCOMPANYING HIM IN THE OFFICIAL DELEGATION WERE HIS WIFE, FOREIGN MINISTER ADMIRAL CESAR AUGUSTO GUZZETTI AND OTHER ARGENTINE OFFICIALS. THE VISIT WAS REplete WITH SYMBOLIC EVENTS--BANQUETS, WREATH-LAYING CEREMONIES, CO-DECORATIONS--AS WELL AS SUBSTANTIVE TALKS CONCLUDED BY A JOINT DECLARATION AND AN AGREEMENT OUTLINING ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND PERU.

2. THE JOINT DECLARATION STRESSED INTER ALIA HISTORICAL LINKS BETWEEN PERU AND ARGENTINA AND LOOKED TOWARD A FUTURE OF HARMONIOUS COOPERATION. THE TWO GOVERNMENTS EXPRESSED THEIR ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-INTERVENTION, SELF-DETERMINATION, PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES AND THE RENUNCIATION OF THE THREAT OR USE OF FORCE. REFERRING TO RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA, THE TWO DECLARED IT NECESSARY TO SUPPORT A CLIMATE OF MUTUAL RESPECT, PERMANENT DIALOGUE AND CLOSE COOPERATION IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE

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UNITY AND REGIONAL SOLIDARITY. BOTH PRESIDENTS EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN WITH GROWING VIOLENCE IN ALL ITS MANIFESTATIONS. THEY CALLED FOR THE EXCHANGE OF REGIONAL PROPOSALS LEADING TOWARD THE ELIMINATION OF TENSIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES OF THE AREA AND IN THIS CONTEXT AGREED ON THE NEED TO SUPPORT THE PROCESS OF COMPLETE DISARMAMENT WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF BOTH NUCLEAR AND NON-NUCLEAR STATES.

3. THE TWO PRESIDENTS REITERATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION, THE REVITALIZATION OF LAFTA AND THE GROWTH OF THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA). THEY DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING ACTION COMMITTEES TO COORDINATE BINATIONAL AND MULTI-NATIONAL PROJECTS FOR SELA MEMBERS. THE PRESIDENTS SUPPORTED THE REVISION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM IN ACCORD WITH AGREEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE OAS' SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT SUPPORTED THE ARGENTINE POSITION ON THE EXERCISE OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE MALVINAS (FALKLAND) ISLANDS.

4. BOTH PRESIDENTS EXPRESSED PLEASURE WITH THE "FAVORABLE TENDENCY" EXISTING IN THE THIRD U.N. CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, LEADING TOWARD RECOGNITION OF SOVEREIGNTY AND JURISDICTION OF COASTAL STATES OVER TERRITORIAL WATERS EXTENDING FOR 200 MILES. THEY AGREED THAT SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CONTINENTAL SHELF EXTENDS TO ITS LOWER EDGE OR FOR A DISTANCE EQUAL TO 200 MILES FROM SHORE IF THE SHELF DOES NOT REACH THAT DISTANCE. THEY AGREED THAT THE LAW OF THE SEA SHOULD RECOGNIZE ASPIRATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND ESPECIALLY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND SHOULD INCLUDE AN INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY OVER MARINE RESOURCES OUTSIDE OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION.

5. THE PRESIDENTS NOTED ARGENTINE/PERUVIAN COOPERATION TO DATE ON NUCLEAR ENERGY AND AGREED THAT THE PERUVIAN INSTITUTE FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY AND THE ARGENTINE NATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION WOULD NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND

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EQUIPPING OF PERU'S CENTER FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH, INCLUDING A \$25 MILLION, 10 MEGAWATT NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTER.

6. COMMENT: THE GOP ROLLED OUT A PLUSH RED CARPET AND PROVIDED MASSIVE PRESS COVERAGE ON THE VIDELA VISIT. IN SPITE OF THE ECONOMIC ACCORD, THE VISIT'S IMPORTANCE FOR PERU WAS FUNDAMENTALLY POLITICAL, CLEARLY DEMONSTRATING THE MORALES BERMUDEZ GOVERNMENT'S "RETURN TO THE AMERICAS" IN FOREIGN POLICY EMPHASIS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT MEXICO'S PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO WOULD BE THE NEXT STATE VISITOR TO LIMA REFLECTS THAT POLICY. FURTHERMORE, WHILE SPECULATION ON A POSSIBLE LIMA/BUENOS AIRES AXIS EXAGGERATES THE POINT, THE GOP OBVIOUSLY VIEWS CLOSE COOPERATION WITH ARGENTINA AS RELEVANT FOR PERUVIAN POLICIES ON THE BOLIVIAN CORRIDOR AND TOWARD CHILE. MORALES BERMUDEZ' FOREIGN POLICY HAS SUCCESSFULLY EXTRICATED PERU FROM THE SELF-IMPOSED DIPLOMATIC ISOLATION WITHIN SOUTH AMERICA WHICH CHARACTERIZED THE VELASCO REGIME.

7. GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, SPAIN AND ARGENTINA ALLEGEDLY MADE

PROPOSALS TO PERU ON THE PROVISION OF AN ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTER.
THE ARGENTINE BID HAS BEEN ACCEPTED PERHAPS FOR POLITICAL AS
WELL AS ECONOMIC REASONS.
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